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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. P68.2B-11533-US01

Amendments To The Claims:

Applicants have cancelled claim 10.

1. (Currently Amended): A stair lift for lifting and lowering at least one person on a stairway, the stair lift comprising:

~~a rail, the rail having a structural portion and a track, wherein the track, is mountable to an upper surface of the structural portion of said rail, said track comprising a row of plastic molded teeth shaped to engage a spiral drive;~~

a rail, the rail having a structural portion and a track, the structural portion of said rail having an upper surface, said rail including a track retaining profile on said upper surface, said track mountable to the upper surface and slidably retained in said track retaining profile, said track comprising a row of plastic molded teeth shaped to engage a spiral drive;

a carriage mountable to said rail, said carriage having a track engaging spiral plastic drive gear, and a motor to power said drive gear, said powered drive causing said carriage to move along said rail;

a seat support mounted on said carriage,

said seat support being mountable to said carriage in one of a left side or a right side position;

a seat pivotally mounted on said seat support on a laterally offset pivot axis, and

a means for angularly securing said seat in position on said seat support in either said left side or right side position and for selectively releasing said seat to permit said seat to swivel about said laterally offset pivot axis between an upward facing position and

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a sideways facing position on said seat support to facilitate said person getting into and out of said seat.

2. (Cancelled):

3. (Currently Amended): A stair lift as claimed in claim 2 1 wherein said structural portion is a hollow section having side channels and said carriage has wheels which ride in said side channels.

4. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 3 wherein said carriage further includes bearings adjacent to said wheels.

5. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 4 wherein said rail is comprised of two or more sections joined end to end.

6. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 5 wherein said rail further includes a race for electrical wires.

7. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 6 wherein said rail sections are joined together by connectors, said connectors being sized and shaped to draw abutting edges of said rail sections into tight contact.

8. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 7 wherein said rail section includes a channel for retaining a switch trip element.

9. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 8 further including a switch trip element housed within said channel to trip switches on said carriage to control movement of said carriage along said rail.

10. (Cancelled):

11. (Cancelled):

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12. (Currently Amended): A stair lift as claimed in claim ~~11~~ 1 wherein said teeth are formed into discrete track sections, which abut end to end to form said row of teeth having a substantially even spacing of teeth along said track.
13. (Cancelled):
14. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 13 wherein said track sections further include a reinforcing element to reduce the displacement of said teeth under loads.
15. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 14 wherein said reinforcing element does not extend fully to the ends of each of said track section.
16. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 14 wherein said rail includes a clamping element to apply an axial load along said track sections.
17. (Currently Amended): A stair lift as claimed in claim 16 wherein said ~~axial load improves the performance of the track under load~~ clamping element is a pre-loading screw.
18. (Previously Presented): A stair lift as claimed in claim 1 wherein said seat support includes a seat support post pivotally mounted at a pivot point to said carriage.
19. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 18 wherein said seat support post includes a fastener to lock said seat support post at a given angle relative to said carriage.
20. (Previously Presented): A stair lift as claimed in claim 19 wherein said seat support post is in the form of a single post above said pivotal mounting and is in the form of a forked element below said pivot point, wherein said seat support post can extend down around a motor located within said carriage.
21. (Currently Amended): A stair lift as claimed in claim 1 wherein said motor drives said ~~worm gear drive~~ spiral plastic drive gear in two directions to permit said carriage to move in opposite directions along said rail.

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22. (Cancelled):
23. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 21 wherein said carriage includes limit switches to control operation of said motor.
24. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 23 wherein said carriage includes at least three limit switches, one at a time of two to slow said carriage, and the third to stop said carriage as said carriages approaches an end of said rail.
25. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 1 wherein said carriage includes a manual motor switch to activate said motor to facilitate the installation of said carriage on said track.
26. (Previously Presented): A stair lift as claimed in claim 1 wherein said carriage further includes a foot rest which can be placed on said carriage in one of a left side and right side position.
27. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 26 wherein said foot rest covers said manual motor switch to prevent access to said switch once the carriage is installed.
28. (Previously Presented): A stair lift as claimed in claim 1 wherein said laterally offset pivot axis is positioned to permit said rail to be mounted closely adjacent to a side of said stairway, without said seat interfering with a side wall thereof.
29. (Original): A stair lift as claimed in claim 1 wherein said seat includes at least one offset mount for mounting said seat on said offset arm.
30. (Previously Presented): A stair lift as claimed in claim 29 wherein said seat includes at least two offset mounts for said seat support, with at least one located at either side of said seat wherein said seat may be mounted in either a left hand or a right hand offset configuration.

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31 (*Currently Amended*): A stair lift as claimed in claim 1 wherein said a means for